

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 14, 15 and 18 have been amended hereby. Claims 14, 15, and 18 are pending for further examination.

Claims 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,959,869) in view of Siegel et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,413,260) and Barrett et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,214,761) and Werth et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,369,442) and Sunyich (U.S. Pat. 4,857,714).

Applicant submits that the applied references do not teach all elements of independent claim 14, as amended.

For example, independent claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, "said first screen and said second screen further include an interface, being automatically displayable in at least one of the first screen and second screen when one of said specific buttons is used, said interface protecting said free play reserve file and requiring a first code for using said first button to function as a request for adding one credit to the credit reserve in said free play reserve file when this first button is touched, said interface requiring a second code for using said second button to function as a request for redeeming one credit from the number of credits in said free play reserve file and removing one credit from the credit reserve in said free play reserve file when this second button is touched, wherein said first and second codes must be entered each time a credit is added or redeemed."

second button is touched, wherein said first and second codes must be entered each time a credit is added or redeemed.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Digital audiovisual reproduction system~~jukebox
device according to claim 14, wherein the operating system includes a program module for displaying a screen for selection of time ranges for determining a given time range within which the credits in the free play reserve file may be used.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Digital audiovisual reproduction system~~jukebox
device according to claim 14, wherein the operating system includes a module for allowing ~~an~~the operator to limit the ranges of values within which the manager can modify the physical parameters of the audiovisual reproduction system.

The Office Action concedes that Miller, Siegel and Barrett fail to disclose these claim elements and introduces Werth to compensate for this deficiency.

According to the Office Action, Werth “teaches restricting access to specific aspects of a vending machine to the owner and restricting other specific aspects of a vending machine to the operator, each accessed through entry of an input code, granting exclusive access to only the parties which have a right said vending machine aspects.”

First, Applicant notes that even if Werth does teach restricting access to specific aspects of a vending machine, nothing in Werth teaches or suggests that access should be restricted or related to a free credit counter, let alone restricted such that servicemen can add to the counter and owners can detract from the counter. Only by reading Applicant’s disclosure would it have been known to apply such a restricted access. Siegel, the prior art allegedly showing the free credit counter, teaches that the credit line (which is merely the device by which credits are added) can be enabled by a serviceman, but, once enabled, anyone with access to a remote control can add credits. Thus, a combination of Werth and Siegel would have resulted, at best, in a system where access was restricted to servicemen for enabling the credit line, but anyone could use the line once enabled. The owner’s access restriction would have been directed, as taught by Werth, at the ability to check the counters not at the ability to retrieve free credits. Nothing in any of the prior art would suggest that Werth should be modified to restrict access to a free credit reserve, especially since the reserve taught in Siegel is not restricted in addition or usage, but only in enablement.

Further, claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, “a free play reserve file on the memory is readable/writeable to store the number of credits added by the operator as a credit reserve, said free play reserve file being separate from a general reserve file used to store credits based on user payments.”

The Office Action concedes that Miller/Siegel/Barret/Werth do not teach or suggest this claim element and introduces Sunyich to compensate for this deficiency. According to the Office Action, Sunyich teaches that it was known at the time to store credit type transactions from different sources in different files, a first file for recording user payment related transactions and a second file for recording free access or free use transactions.

Initially, Applicant notes that Sunyich is hardly analogous art. Sunyich is directed at a credit card operated safe, and further, the “free uses” taught by Sunyich are not operator added credits that a manager withdraws, but rather a swipe of a courtesy card for which no restricted number of uses is taught.

Further, Applicant notes that Sunyich teaches that separate designators are used for credit strings related to customer credit cards versus manager courtesy cards and that all the data is then stored in a single file for later processing. According to Sunyich, use information is stored in a “charges data” file at the central host computer. (13:67-14:1). Then, a copy of the use information is transferred to a process data file of a processing computer. (14:9-12). The processing computer sifts through the information it has received. (14:23-24). The information the computer has received is the use information

transferred to the computer, which corresponds to the charges data file. The processing computer then sorts through the file and sorts the billable card numbers into one file and the free card uses into another.

Thus, what Sunyich actually teaches is that all override uses and paid uses of the safe are stored in a common file, later sent to another computer for processing, and then sorted into separate files which are unrelated to the original system which did the billing. This is utterly unlike what is being claimed. Applicant has claimed that a first file stores credits (e.g. something to be used) purchased for a fee, and a second, different file stores credits not purchased.

A combination of Sunyich with the other prior art would, at best, result in a system where a manager could swipe a card and give a patron a free song. That card information, along with all purchase information, would be stored in one file, and further, that file would have nothing to do with any credits remaining in any reserves, but would rather simply record payment data. The file would then be sent to another computer for processing, and the second computer would sort out the manager's free uses from the other uses. Such a system does not, however, teach "a free play reserve file on the memory is readable/writable to store the number of credits added by the operator as a credit reserve, said free play reserve file being separate from a general reserve file used to store credits based on user payment."

Also, there would be no motivation to split the reserve files of any of the prior art alleged to teach such reserve files, because none of the prior art teaches or suggests the

- need for such a second file, since none of the prior art teaches or suggests that there
- should be a set of free credits reserved for manager use only.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 18 should be allowable based at least on its dependency from allowable claim 14. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller, Siegel, Barrett, Werth, and Sunyich as applied to claim 14 and further in view of Kalis et al. (6,212,138).

Kalis does not overcome the noted deficiencies of the rejection with respect to claim 14, so claim 15 should be allowable based at least on its dependency from claim 14.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes all claims to be in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

NATHAN

Appl. No. 09/621,675

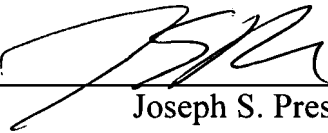
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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this case, or deem that any formal matters need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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